**English 12 Writing Lesson**

**Writing a Literary Analysis**

**Objective:**

To analyze a multi-paragraph literary analysis; to practice writing a literary analysis

**Procedure:**

1. Read the poem “The Interlude” by Karl Shapiro and read an example literary analysis (Handout 60 of *Advanced Composition* from The Center for Learning)
2. Generate discussion by asking the students the following questions: *What is the thesis statement? Where is the method of development indicated? What background information from the poem is given? What details or inferences support the beauty and preciousness of the tiny insect? What details or inferences support the sense of sadness? Why does the author use direct quotations? How does the structure of the poem support the thesis statement? What order of arranging details is used? Where is the thesis statement repeated in the conclusion? How does the writer show that the composition is approaching completion?*
3. Discuss the method of development for writing a literary analysis
4. Students may choose either Ambrose Bierce’s short story “A Horseman in the Sky” or Percy Shelley’s poem “Ozymandias” as the basis for their literary analysis essay. Hand out list of analysis questions for both literary pieces.
5. Students select a focus for their analysis, and develop a thesis statement. Students will list the details and inferences which support their thesis statement.
6. Students will write a multi-paragraph composition using the thesis statement they wrote in class.
7. For homework, students will print the lyrics to their favorite song, and then write a literary analysis paying attention to rhyme and repetition (if any), imagery, and theme.